

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Comprehensive FIP Your School Implementation Handbook now available

The FIP Your School Implementation Handbook is designed to help school leadership teams successfully plan and implement formative instructional practices (FIP). No matter how far along your LEA is in implementing FIP, this tool can help. The handbook contains strategies for each stage of implementation, in addition to planning tools and ideas for monitoring and sustaining the use of FIP. The five sections of the handbook are:

- **Section 1: Prepare to Launch FIP Your School** - Guidance on identifying your team and how to get familiar with the FIP Your School tools.
- **Section 2: Plan Your Implementation** - Strategies for setting the right conditions and following the implementation pathway milestones.
- **Section 3: Document and Monitor Your Plan** - Tools to document your plan and collect evidence about your implementation.
- **Section 4: Advance Your Practice** - Teacher and leadership self-assessments and student survey tools to encourage effective feedback and reflection on practice.
- **Section 5: Appendices** - A comprehensive inventory of FIP Your School tools, references to other resources and a guide to mapping a plan for blended learning.

Note: Access the implementation handbook in the [Facilitating Formative Instructional Practices filerom](#) on the Ohio Student Progress Portal (login required).

Please contribute your technology integration ideas to the model curriculum

To support teachers' efforts to integrate technology content and skills into their classroom experiences, ODE's Office of Curriculum and Assessment is incorporating related resources and strategies directly into the model curriculum for each content area. *We are asking for your help* in developing this component of the model curricula and are interested in learning about *specific ways you have integrated technology* to support instruction of targeted content and skills. Examples will be considered for use in the model curricula using a rubric of specific criteria. You can view these criteria by viewing the Technology Integration Filter posted [here](#). Contribute your ideas online, by clicking [here](#) to access an online form. Once the form is completed, your ideas will be sent directly to ODE.

World languages support Common Core ELA and literacy standards

The [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) (ACTFL) has developed a crosswalk document to demonstrate how their National Standards for Learning Languages align with the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and literacy. The crosswalk, titled [Alignment of the National Standards for Learning Languages with the Common Core State Standards](#), identifies how standards within each strand are addressed through standards- and performance-based language learning. This document also contains examples of how language students at novice, intermediate and advanced levels demonstrate the English language arts and literacy standards. Read more on this topic in ACTFL's journal, *The Language Educator*, in a January article titled [The Common Core Framework and World Languages: A Wake-up Call for All](#) by Audrey L. Heining-Boynton (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Mary Lynn Redmond (Wake Forest University).

Application due April 19 for Advance Placement Network Grant

Applications are now open for Cohort 2 of the Advanced Placement Network Grant. Grant recipients will be a select cohort of high schools who will participate in the building, expansion and enhancement of advanced placement (AP) course offerings. Schools will receive funding for the development of an advanced placement course and a strategic plan that addresses how to increase performance of students scoring a 3 or higher on an AP exam. To start an AP program in your high school, or expand existing

programs, download the application [here](#) and submit it by **April 19**. Grantees will be notified by May 8. Questions may be directed to Yolande Berger at yolande.berger@education.ohio.gov.

Free tuition for an online AP course available for eligible students

When planning next year's Advance Placement course schedule, keep in mind the Digital AP Tuition Waiver program as an option to provide AP courses for students. Ohio public or private high school students may apply now for a one-time fee waiver for an online Advance Placement course through [ilearnOhio](#). To be eligible, students must attend an Ohio high school or be homeschooled within an Ohio school of residence. The home district or school submits the waiver application and agrees that the student will receive credit for successful completion of the course. More information on the program and waiver fee applications can be found [here](#). Waiver requests can be sent now for fall courses.

Questions addressed regarding adherence to physical education evaluation instrument

Starting with the 2012-2013 school year, teachers who are providing physical education programming will conduct a state evaluation and provide data for building and district Local Report Cards. Teachers are to use the state evaluation instrument for data collection purposes. This helps assure greater consistency throughout the state.

There has been some confusion with Standard 4, Benchmark A as it relates to grade bands 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. This is the physical fitness assessment portion of the evaluation. Teachers are to use the materials contained in the evaluation instrument. Directions on how to conduct each task, as well as the grading rubric, are provided.

The only possible exception to this is in the area of aerobic capacity. To determine aerobic capacity for Standard 4, Benchmark A, height and weight information is needed to calculate a rating. If a district does not allow for the collection of height and weight measurements, it will still need data for this portion of the assessment. For these districts, it will be a local decision on how best to collect and provide data for the aerobic capacity portion only. Otherwise, these districts must use the state's evaluation instrument in its entirety. For more information, please contact Lisa Lyle Henry at lisa.henry@education.ohio.gov.

ODE now offering broadcast programming and radio-ready releases

Many schools in Ohio have student-run TV stations, radio stations and news websites. In addition, they use district websites or electronic messages to communicate with their key audiences. Through the [Ohio Education Minute](#), a series of 60-second messages from ODE, the Office of Communications is providing educational content for these communication channels that is easy-to-access and user-friendly. The pre-recorded messages can be used as parts of newscasts, as stand-alone messages or uploaded as podcasts on a website. For more information about the new releases or to share potential story ideas, please contact John Charlton at john.charlton@education.ohio.gov or (614) 728-5959.

Special opportunity offered to Ohio teachers for Teaching in Taiwan

Through a memorandum of understanding with Taiwan's Ministry of Education, Ohio teachers have the opportunity to spend a year living and teaching English in Taiwan. ODE invites new and experienced elementary and middle school teachers to apply to participate in the Teaching in Taiwan program for the 2013-2014 school year. The deadline for applying is Friday, **April 5**. For more information, visit the [Teaching in Taiwan](#) Web page or contact Dwight Groce at dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov.

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Be a part of something big

ODE is again recruiting districts for the Ohio Performance Assessment Pilot Project, which is aimed at evaluating performance-based assessments as well as defining the nature and implementation of the tasks to be used as part of statewide test instruments. Applications to field-test performance assessments for Ohio's Next Generation Assessment System are available on the [OPAPP](#) Web page for Cohort 4.5 (high school mathematics, English language arts, science, social studies and career-technical assessments) and for Cohort 5 (elementary assessments in mathematics, English language arts, science and social studies). Applications for both cohorts are due **May 24** with notifications of acceptance made by June 14.

Potential applicants are invited to learn more about OPAPP during an hour-long informational webinar this month: for elementary school cohort 5, noon on Tuesday, **March 26**; and for high school cohort 4.5, at noon on Thursday, **March 28**. For more information, see resources including past webinars and video newsletters on the [OPAPP](#) Web page or contact Lauren Monowar-Jones at lauren.monowar-jones@education.ohio.gov or by phone at (614) 728-1759.

Chartered nonpublic schools: please update OEDs information by April 19

The online Intent to Participate survey for the Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) and Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) in 2013-2014 will be sent to chartered nonpublic school principals via email this spring. To ensure proper completion of this important survey, all chartered nonpublic schools need to:

- Work with their Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS) administrator to verify and update principal email address and other school information in OEDs by **April 19**.
- Complete the online survey **whether or not** they will be participating in the Ohio assessments.
- Administer the Ohio assessments to any EdChoice, Cleveland and Jon Peterson Scholarship students, and thus must indicate these administrations in the Intent to Participate survey.

To find the name of your OEDs administrator: 1) Login into your [SAFE account](#), or create an account. 2) Click on the link titled "Show my current OEDs roles/access" in the top box at right. This link will take you to the page where the name is noted.

Approved vendor list for Student Growth Measure Assessments is posted

An updated list of approved assessment vendors for 2013 is available [here](#). The assessments on the list meet the fundamental requirements for measuring student growth. Districts should contact the vendor directly for specific details about the formulas, data or evidence used to measure growth. Also, districts must use the EVAAS Value-Added data from OAA results for grades 4-8 in reading and math at the teacher level. Since no other assessments for English language arts/reading and/or mathematics for grades 4-8 would be applicable, these are no longer included on the list. Assessments used in these areas are considered local measures. The next updated list will be posted in January 2014.

Medical Emergency Waiver for assessments process updated

There are circumstances when it is not possible for students to take the OAA or OGT. For this reason, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) allows states to exclude, for accountability purposes, students who "...cannot be assessed at any time during the testing window due to a significant medical emergency (e.g. a student is hospitalized due to an accident)." For the purpose of calculating the participation rate, a student experiencing such a significant medical emergency is eligible for a participation waiver. Since a significant medical emergency is not foreseeable, medical waivers are, by nature, requested and evaluated annually. USDOE allows states to define those circumstances that represent a significant medical emergency.

ODE updated its process for granting medical waivers beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. The updated process requires districts to submit a Medical Emergency Waiver Application with accompanying documentation such as a doctor's order or other medical records that will help explain the emergency that prevented the student's participation. For more information and the application, click [here](#). Questions concerning medical participation waivers may be directed to Jackie Seward at (614) 387-7570 or jackie.seward@education.ohio.gov.

Take note of Spring 2013 OAA dates

- Week of April 8 – Test materials will be shipped; additional order window will open.
- Week of April 15 – Pre-ID shipments will arrive.
- April 22 to May 10 – Spring 2013 administration.

Scores related to Grade 3 Reading OAA and Third-Grade Reading Guarantee clarified

There is some confusion regarding whether the proficient score for the OAA grade 3 reading test has changed. The proficient level for the grade 3 reading OAA is 400 and has not changed. For school year 2012-2013, the score of 390 on the grade 3 reading OAA is used to determine if the student should be *retained or promoted* to grade 4 and is based on the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee. For school year 2013-2014, the score will be 392.

Spring 2013 (AASCD) schedule winds up soon

The Spring 2013 Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) administration will end March 29. There will be no modification of or extension to the AASCD administration window. All scores should be submitted in the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by March 29.

Details about Ohio Diagnostic Field Test outlined

- Week of March 11 – The field test materials were shipped to participating districts and schools.
- March 18 to April 19 – The Ohio K-3 Diagnostics Field Test will be administered.
- There will be no reports or results sent as a result of the Spring 2013 Diagnostic Field Test.
- Districts that are participating in the field test also will need to administer a mathematics diagnostic to grades 1-2 and a writing diagnostic to grades 1-3.
- Transfer students for kindergarten through grade 3 will need to be administered a reading diagnostic. (The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy cannot be used for transfer students now because it must be administered no later than Oct. 1.)
- The field test does not take the place of the diagnostic assessments required by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

Note Spring 2013 Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) dates

- March 11 through March 24 – Spring 2013 administration.
- March 11 through April 11 – Invalidation window.
- May 13 – Downloadable data files with results will be posted.
- May 23 – Printed reports will be shipped to districts and schools.
- May 13 through June 21 – Rescore/verification window will be open.

Please safeguard OGT calculators

As you are completing another administration of the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT), it is important to remember that it is the responsibility of district/school test coordinators to monitor, track and safeguard OGT calculators for future test administrations. Except for newly established high schools or those that have unconventional increases in enrollment, all high schools in the state should have enough OGT calculators for future test administrations. If you have any non-working calculators, please contact DRC at (877) 231-7809 and press 1. DRC will arrange to replace any non-working calculators free of charge. Do not discard any non-working calculators unless you are instructed to do so by DRC.

Spring 2013 Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition (OTELA) dates are set

- April 17-18 – The Spring 2013 pre-reporting record change window in TIDE will be open. During this window, districts will have the opportunity to review their students' demographic information and make any necessary corrections (e.g., spelling of name, birth date).
- May 8 – Downloadable data will be available.
- May 16 – Student score reports will be delivered to districts by this date.
- May 23 – Interactive data will be posted online.
- May 8 to June 5 – TIDE will be open for districts to submit verification requests. There will be a \$25 charge for each verification. There are no rescues for OTELA.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Learn more about on fostering collaboration in the classroom through free webinar

Join INFOhio for the webinar titled *Put Us In, Coach – We're Ready to Collaborate!* on Thursday, **March 21**, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to put the necessary steps in place that make successful collaboration possible and see examples of the technology used, including the international social justice engine PhotoVoice. They also will see the fruits of student collaborative labors through two real-world projects: Structures from Circleville Middle School and Through Students' Eyes from Euclid High School. Hear how these projects helped students relate what they are learning in the classroom to life beyond school. To register, go to <http://www.infohio.org/webinars>.

Register now for two-part health education workshop

Health teachers and curriculum directors are invited to register for the conference titled Health Education: A Skills-Based Approach. Participants can use lessons from the conference to create and apply an effective health education curriculum for a middle school or high school health class. The two-day

workshop will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday, **March 22**, and Friday, **April 19** at the University of Toledo Health and Human Services Building Multi-Purpose Room (HH1711). Participants must attend both sessions. The cost to attend this workshop is \$120, which includes all workshop materials, as well as Continental breakfast and lunch both days. Space is limited and registration is required. Click [here](#) to register. If you have questions, please contact Jan Meyer at (419) 327-8969 or jan.meyer@odh.ohio.gov.

Apply now for George Washington Summer Residential Teachers' Institute at Mount Vernon

The George Washington Summer Residential Teachers' Institute at Mount Vernon brings teachers to George Washington's historic estate for immersive study and discussion of the role that George Washington played during our nation's founding. Ohio teachers must submit their **applications by March 27** for the week-long seminar which will take place **July 14-20**. During the seminar, teachers will:

- Examine the character and accomplishments of George Washington while living on his 18th century estate;
- Engage in active discussion of 18th century history with top historians;
- Explore Mount Vernon and the Washington, D.C. area through interactive workshops, tours, field trips and group projects;
- Discuss how to integrate teaching history into English, science, math and geography curricula in accordance with current education standards;
- Return to their classrooms with new knowledge, teaching materials and a network of teachers with whom to share classroom ideas, lesson plans and resources.

All teachers accepted into the institute receive a travel stipend and reside on the grounds of Mount Vernon for the duration of the institute. Participants are required to complete one lesson plan for dissemination to teachers across the nation via the Mount Vernon website, and perform one in-service session for colleagues in their home district or state. The Ohio teacher application for the Mount Vernon Summer Residential Teachers' Institute can be found [here](#).

For more information, please visit the [Summer Residential Teachers' Institute website](#). **Please send completed applications by the March 27 deadline** to Linda McKean at Linda.McKean@education.ohio.gov, or by postal mail to her at the Office of Curriculum and Assessment, Ohio Department of Education, ATTN: Mount Vernon Teachers' Institute Application, 25 S. Front St., MS 509, Columbus, OH 43215-4183.

The Research 4 Success blended learning course is free and open to all

Research 4 Success is a new online, blended-learning course from INFOhio aimed at helping students develop the rigorous research skills they will need in college and careers. Designed with the needs of juniors and seniors in mind, the course is presented in a series of six modules. Each module introduces students to a key research skill; allows them to practice it; and provides tools for formative, interim and summative assessment. To learn more, visit educators.infohio.org/r4s and register for access to an online teachers' guide, assessment tools, a syllabus, connections to standards and blended learning ideas.

Thought of the month

"Education costs money, but then so does ignorance." – *Sir Claus Moser*

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